



*Los Angeles County*  
**Sheriff's Department**

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## **News Release**

### **SHERIFF BACA ACKNOWLEDGES LYNWOOD BLOCK WATCH CAPTAINS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR HISTORIC REDUCTIONS IN CRIME**

Sheriff Lee Baca commended Lynwood Block Watch Captains, community leaders and deputies from Century Station for their dramatic success in strengthening public safety in the City of Lynwood. The most striking achievement was upholding the lowest number of homicides since crime statistics were recorded, surpassing even last year's historic reductions in nearly every crime category. The success was attributed to an outstanding partnership between the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the City of Lynwood, hinging on a holistic approach to law enforcement known as Public Trust Policing.

To immediately address violent crime, deputies from Century Station targeted the most active gang members responsible for violent crime and firearms-related assaults. Their efforts resulted in the arrest of hundreds of parolees and the seizure of nearly 200 firearms in Lynwood. "The enforcement strategy for active gang members is simple...zero-tolerance," stated Captain James Hellmold of Century Station.

The impact on violent crime in Lynwood was augmented with programs designed to increase community involvement. Lynwood Block Watch Captains were instrumental in providing information regarding crime and quality of life concerns, as well as heightening community awareness. The Sheriff's Department also expanded its youth outreach with intervention and prevention programs, such as Vital Intervention and Directional Alternatives (VIDA), Sheriff's Explorers, and a Youth Leadership Course designed to teach responsibility, leadership and civic involvement.

The holistic public safety approach in Lynwood also included the deployment of advanced technologies known countywide as Advanced Surveillance and Protection (ASAP). ASAP technologies include video surveillance, acoustic gunshot detection, automatic license plate recognition scanners (ALPR) and "Bluecheck," the newest mobile device which allows deputies to scan thumb prints and immediately identify subjects. "ASAP technology provides deputies with real-time intelligence to more safely and effectively prevent crime," said Sheriff Baca.

"Over the past two years, there has been a total transformation in Lynwood. Residents, deputies, community leaders and Block Watch Captains have totally embraced Public Trust Policing. The results are a testimony to the power we have when we work together and take action to strengthen public safety and improve quality of life," concluded Sheriff Baca.

For additional information, contact Century Station at (323) 568-4750.